

## NDGA A, B & C Grade Pennant Rules

### 2026 Series

17 January 2026

1. **Qualification** - Each club may enter one team in A, B & C Grade Pennants.  
Clubs to nominate their intention to provide a team in the following year's pennant series. When selecting teams, preference should be given to those players that played in the previous year's District Championships.

**To play in any Rounds or the Semi/Finals a player must have a GA handicap, on the Friday prior to the weekend of play, in the range applicable (B Grade: 11.7 - plus) and (C Grade: 19.2 - plus)**

2. **Team Member** - A team member may only represent and play for one NDGA affiliated club in a pennant series. Each member of a pennant team must be a male bona-fide amateur, 6 or 7-day member of the club he is representing and must be financial and affiliated before he can play. A Team member must have played in any of the round games to qualify for the Semi-Final's or Final's.

Note – Suspended players are ineligible to play.

3. **Club** - All clubs entering teams in the pennant series must make their course available for the home and away series and reserve starting tee times between 7.00am and 8.30am on the relevant Sunday mornings as the default starting time when hosting a round. If agreement is reached with the visiting Club to vary the date or time, that agreement must be conveyed by each Team Manager to the Secretary, NDGA before the day of play. Play is then to take place in accordance with the reported agreement. Each club, when they are hosting a round of the pennant series, must provide an official, preferably from their Match Committee, to be the NDGA/Club Official of the Day, start the matches and marshall the course.
4. All clubs entering teams do so on the undertaking that they will play all scheduled games, as a forfeit breaches the spirit of the NDGA pennant competition. If a club forfeits a round, the opposing club will be granted a game point for the win and also all match points. If a club forfeits twice, they will be removed from the competition. Teams who have played, or are due to play clubs removed under this rule, shall be granted byes for each of the related rostered events, with no match or game points allocated.
5. **Draw** - Games are to be played as per the draw published by the NDGA. Clubs may mutually agree to play at any time over the allocated weekend. The default starting time is between 7.00am and 8:30am on Sunday morning, meaning if one Club does not wish to play at any other time, the game will be played on Sunday morning, starting between 7.00am and 8.30am. Clubs may also agree to alternate venues. The NDGA must be notified prior and agree to any changes. If the games are agreed to by both clubs to play on a Saturday there must not be a clash with any OOM event, otherwise the game must be played on the Sunday. Please see OOM schedule.
6. **Team** - Teams will consist of 8 players in A Grade division 1 and 2, 6 players for A Grade division 3. Teams will consist of 6 players for B and C. On the day of each game, the Team Captain or Manager is to nominate his team in playing order (1 to 8) or (1 to 6) on the Pennant Team Sheet, and hand to the Official of the Day (Host Club Delegate), at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled tee time. The Pennant Team Sheet is to have the name and Golflink number of each player. No changes to the order are permitted after submission. In the event that a club cannot provide the stipulated number of players, they must arrange their team list from No.1 down, with relevant matches forfeited.

**Penalty: Disqualification of those players out of position**

***Teams are to be arranged in strict GA Handicap order – lowest at 1 – highest at 6. The GA handicap is determined on the Friday prior to the weekend of play. The only deviation in the order allowable is to facilitate the sharing of a motorised cart.***

On the day of each game, the Team Captain or Manager is to nominate his team in playing order (1 to 6) on the Pennant Team Sheet to the Official Starter, 10 minutes prior to the scheduled tee time. The Pennant Team Sheet must be completely filled out, or maybe rejected. Name, Golfink Number and GA handicap as displayed by Golfink on the Friday prior to weekend play, for each player is required. No changes to the order are permitted after submission.

Team managers / Captains are strongly encouraged to use the latest Golf Australia Handicap App – to monitor handicaps of team members and check handicaps for inclusion on Team Sheets.

In the event that a club cannot provide the stipulated number of players, they must arrange their team list from No.1 down, with relevant matches forfeited. In the 5 minutes before the team's scheduled tee time – any substitutions will be at the discretion of the NDGA Official.

**Penalty for Breach: Disqualification of those players out of position**

7. **Darren Searle Shield** – This year will be the inaugural running of the Darren Searle shield which incorporates the overall club team's event in Pennants 2026 and onwards. This Club event will be decided by an accumulation of points from all 3 grades over the preliminary rounds of the Pennant series for that year. 1 point will be awarded to each team win in each grade (A, B & C), drawn games will result in 0.5 points to each team, losses will be 0 points.  
In the event of a tie at the end of the Preliminary round games, countback will be the total number of games won in A, B & C grade between the 2 winning clubs. If a tie still exists, there will be joint winners for the Shield.  
The winning club will be given \$1000 towards junior development for their respective club.
8. **Order of Play** - Teams will hit off in reverse order ie: The number 1s will hit off last. Order of team hit off will be determined by opposing captains, or their representatives, by the toss of a coin. Order of play may be varied with the agreement of both team captains. Matches can be played in 2's or 4's at the sole discretion of the accredited Official on the day.
9. For a scheduled game, if both teams forfeit or mutually agree to not play, then no match or game points will be awarded. The game will not be considered as a draw.
10. **Practice** - Permission must be sought for any practice on a host course, both in the week prior to and on the day of play. Their instructions are to be strictly adhered to. Maximum groups of four players at any time. Any fee for practice rounds prior to the day of the game is at the discretion of the host club.  
**Penalty: Loss of 1<sup>st</sup> hole for offending players**
11. All matches shall be played strictly to the Rules of Golf and the Local Rules prevailing at the host club on the day of play. Players are to comply with the dress rules applicable at the host club.
12. **Advice to Players** - During a match, players may only have 1 caddy at a time and only the player's caddie may give advice. Refer to Rules of Golf, Rule 10.3a. Supporters and team members are not to directly interact with the players, while a match is in progress, as this may be seen as a breach of the Rules of Golf and the relevant penalty applied.

13. The consumption of alcohol and/or the taking of legally prohibited substances by players, caddies, managers and team officials on the course, during a stipulated round, is strictly prohibited.  
**Penalty: A player will be disqualified, and the team may be disqualified for a breach of this rule.**
14. **Distance Measuring Devices** - Use is permitted – but only in accordance with Golf Australia guidelines. Mobile phones are acceptable as GPS – but must be on silent.  
**Penalty: Loss of Hole - for any inappropriate operation of phone**
15. **Motorised Carts** - A Grade - Conditional use is permitted. Players must comply with the NDGA Transport Policy. Pre-approval is required  
B & C Grade – Use of motorised carts is permitted without conditions.
16. Booking of any cart is the responsibility of the Player/Club and availability is not guaranteed.
17. **Slow play** - Any match will be considered out of position if it reaches the tee of a par-3 hole and the preceding group has cleared the next tee; reaches the tee of a par-4 hole and the putting green is clear; or reaches the tee of a par-5 hole when the preceding group is on the putting green.
- If a group is out of position relative to the pace of play, they will be given a warning that they must make up the distance within the next 2 holes. After those 2 holes, if the group is considered to remain out of position, they will be required to deem the next hole to be played as halved and progress to the next tee. If the group is still out of position, this procedure may be repeated. The decision to enforce this rule will be at the discretion of the representative of the Host Club or NDGA Official.  
For further information, refer to the NDGA Pace of Play Policy.
18. **Practice Putting** - During the course of play, when the result of a hole has been determined, both players must immediately pick their ball up and proceed to the next tee. Practice putting on the hole just completed is not permitted.  
**Penalty for Breach: Loss of the next hole.**
19. **Adverse Conditions** - Provided the game has not already been determined, if an individual match cannot be completed due to adverse conditions or other unforeseen circumstance, the match is to be suspended and by agreement of the team captains the game may be conceded, declared a draw or can be concluded by restarting from the position where play was suspended. This should occur as soon as practical but certainly before the next preliminary round. If the game cannot be played, the result will be declared a draw.
20. **Determination of Results in Preliminary Rounds** - All individual matches in the preliminary rounds shall be completed on the 18th hole unless a winning result is already achieved. The individual player that wins his match shall be awarded 1 match point. If a result has not been achieved after the 18th hole, the match is drawn and each player receives ½ a match point. During each round the club whose team has the higher number of match points is then credited with a win for the round and receives 1 game point - their opponent is credited with a loss and receives 0 game points. If there is a tie on match points, each team in Divisions 1 and 2 is credited with 4 match points (3 in Division 3, B & C Grade) If there is a tie on match points – then each team is allocated 0.5 points and the game is halved.
21. **Determination of Semi-Finalists and Finalists –**  
**B & C GRADE**  
At the completion of the preliminary rounds, the club with the highest number of game points shall be the winning team of their respective division. The club with the next highest number of game points will be runner-up in the division. If there is a tie between 2 clubs at the completion of the preliminary rounds, then the number of individual match points won by the clubs shall be used to determine the result. In the event a

tie still exists: then the result of the match when the 2 teams met in the preliminary rounds, will be used to decide the result.

22. **Finals A Grade** - At the completion of the preliminary rounds, the 2 club with the highest number of game points shall be the teams of their respective division to contest the Final's. If Clubs are tied on game points, the countback will be the Club with the highest number of match points. If still tied, the match results from the two rounds the teams played, will be combined, with the team with the highest number of matches declared the winner. These 2 clubs will then contest the Final and the winner be awarded the Pennant in their respective Division. A Player must have played in a round game to be eligible for the Final.
23. **Determination of Results in Semi-Finals & Final's** – All Grades - All individual matches are to be played until a result is achieved and not limited to 18 holes, with a point awarded to the match winner. In the event, that at the conclusion of the individual matches the team game scores are equal, then each team shall select a player and the result to be determined by a sudden death playoff on holes nominated by the NDGA official on the day.
24. **Promotion/Relegation – A Grade** – The A Grade The pennant series is to be conducted on a promotion/relegation system. At the completion of the preliminary rounds, the lowest team with the lowest game points (4<sup>th</sup>) in Division 1 and Division 2, will be relegated to the lower Division, for 2027. The team that wins the Final in Division 2 & 3 will be promoted to the respective higher Division the following year.
- Countbacks, if required, will be as described in Rule 22 above.
25. The NDGA may enter a composite team, in division 3 of A Grade Pennants, if the draw requires. Players for this team, must be financial amateur members of affiliated clubs and will be selected from those players not selected for their respective club's team.
26. Any disputes should be directed, in writing, to the NDGA Match Committee, via the Secretary.
27. The NDGA Match Committee is the controlling body for the pennant series and their decision on all matters will be final.

## Appendix

**B Grade** - Qualifying GA Handicap for B Grade is minimum 11.7 and above

**C Grade** - Qualifying GA Handicap for C Grade is minimum 19.2 and above

NDGA Match Committee